

**STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT, WAR DEPARTMENT****Washington, D.C.****11 October 1946****1****Country: Poland****Subject: Officers Armored School in Modlin****Date of Information:** **Evaluation:** **Reference:**

1. Modlin is the HQ of the Polish Armored and Motorized Troops. The personnel of the Officers' Armored School is as follows:

CO - General Ivan Mershitsan (a Russian). The CO formerly was Col. Czerwinski or Czerwonski, a Polish officer who, in 1920, went over to the Soviets and has now been assigned to the Frontier Guard Troops (W.O.P.)

Chief of Staff - Col. Saranyuk (a Russian)

Deputy CO (Political) - Lt. Col. Zalewski

Deputy CO (Operational) - Lt. Col. Letewski. Before the war he was stationed with armored troops in Modlin, and was taken prisoner by the Germans after the Warsaw uprising. He was recently in the Sandbostel camp near Brumerveerde, subsequently probably in Lübeck. He is expected to be the future commander of the school.

Deputy CO (Technical) - Lt. Col. Terando (a Russian)

2. The school has nine sub-sections:

Political - Chief, Lt. Col. Zalewski (see above)

Training (lectures) - Chief, Lt. Isaak Halperowicz

Technical - Chief, Lt. Col. Terando (acting as deputy CO for operational matters)

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Personnel - Chief, Lt. Col. Grylak, who before the war was a luggage porter in Lodz.

Financial - Chief, 2nd Lt. Grylakowa, wife of Lt. Col. Grylak mentioned above.

Uniforms - Chief, 2nd Lt. Wisniowski

Administrative - Chief: unidentified, a Pole with the rank of captain.

Transport - Chief, Lt. Col. Ganssov (a Russian)

Food - unidentified

3. There are more than a dozen lecturers in the school, of whom a large part are Soviets. Some of these lecturers are:

Capt. Pytlars	)	
Capt. Libiszewski	(	all lecturers in Tactics
Maj. Sukhinin (a Russian)	)	

4. School Battalion

CO - Col. Mesterowicz  
A.D.C. - Capt. Prusdzicki

The battalion consists of three companies of seventy cadet officers, totalling 220-230 of all ranks. The cadet officers are trained on "T-70", "T-34", "KV", and "IS" tanks. Technical training includes motorized and motorcycle equipment.

5. Assault Artillery "Division"

CO - Lt. Col. Bartoszewski (Prewar Polish officer)

The "division" includes three troops (batteries) of approximately seventy cadet officers, totalling 220-230 of all ranks. Cadet officers are trained on "SU-76", 85mm, 100mm, 122mm, and 152mm assault guns.

6. Officers' Training Company (K.D.O. - Kompania Doszkolenia Oficer-skiego)

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This is a company in which officers receive additional training, mostly officers who are returning from Offlags. The CO of the first course was Lt. Col. Tadeusz Gora of the pre-war 2nd Light Cavalry Regiment (chevaux legers) (2 Pulk Szwolezerow) who subsequently left, being assigned Deputy CO (Operational).

These courses last from three to five months each and the graduates are promoted to the next rank and assigned to line formations. The curriculum includes technical training, equipment and a great deal of armor tactics.

7. Tank Supply Battalion (The entire equipment, NCO instructors and crews of armored and motorized equipment of the school)

CO - Lt. Col. Feliks Michalowski - before the war he was commander of the Training Battalion of the Officer Training School in Modlin.

Deputy CO (Political) - Lt. Wladyslaw Gruszecki; his predecessor was Lt. Orlowski, who was preceded by Lt. Kantor.

Deputy CO (Technical) - Capt. Witold Pelenski; his predecessor was Capt. Marian Szeszanski.

MVD Security Officer of Bn. - Lt. Biroska (a Russian)

Senior Bn. A.D.C. - Lt. Leopold Sebelowski

a. The battalion has a strength of twenty-seven officers, eighty-six NCO's and approximately thirty men. The tasks of the battalion include the training of cadet officers in equipment, transport of all kinds of material for the school and maintenance of equipment.

b. Units of the battalion are:

- (1) First Tank Company - CO Lt. Edzislav Zaba, who is the nephew of Lt. Col. Lotowski; his predecessor was Lt. Mieczyslaw Szulg, aged 20, with only seven forms of primary schooling completed.

Deputy CO (Political) - 2nd Lt. Zenobiusz Kopanski

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1st Platoon - five "T-34" tanks, one 76mm gun  
CO - 2nd Lt. Michal Lubaszew; before the war he was  
a corporal in the 9th Cavalry Regt. in Trenbowia.

2nd Platoon - five "T-34" tanks, 85mm guns  
CO - 2nd Lt. Lisak

3rd Platoon - five "T-34" tanks, one 85mm gun  
CO - unidentified

4th Platoon - three "KV" tanks (or "IS")  
CO - Lt. Wladyslaw Pawla

- (2) 2nd Auxiliary Tank Company - CO Lt. Josef Kluwak, who  
was a cavalry NCO before the war.

Deputy CO (Political) - Lt. Pastucha

1st Platoon - four "T-70" tanks, 45mm guns

2nd Platoon - four "T-70" tanks, 45mm guns

3rd Platoon - three "T-70" tanks, 45mm guns

CO's of the platoons are Lt. Josef Werbachowski  
(a Pole born and brought up in the USSR), 2nd Lt. Josef  
Slawicki, and Bohdan Janowski.

- (3) Assault Gun Troop (batterie)

CO - Lt. Henry Kocel, who was a cadet officer in an  
armored unit before the war. The troop includes three  
platoons each having three guns, "T-70", "T-34" and "KV"  
chassis; 76mm, 85mm, 105mm and 122mm guns.

- (4) Armored Cars and Motorcycle Platoon

CO - 2nd Lt. Wladyslaw Jancosak, who was an NCO in an  
armored unit before the war. The equipment includes  
two armored cars of American make, eight Harley Davidson  
motorcycles for training purposes and for signals.

- (5) Maintenance Platoon

CO - Lt. Sedorensko (a Russian)

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The strength of the platoon is approximately twenty men (mechanics). The equipment consists of two or three workshop cars called "lotuski".

(6) Transport Platoon

CO - 2nd Lt. Leczyn Wladski (nephew of the late Col. Wladski, commander of the 51st Infantry Regt., who was murdered in Katyn).

The equipment of the platoon includes six passenger cars and approximately twenty-six trucks. Generally speaking, the Tank Supply Battalion is composed of undisciplined men greatly antagonistic both to the army and to the regime. To a large extent this is due to very heavy work with equipment and bad uniforms as compared with the cadet officers and less polite treatment by CO's. Another reason is that this unit contains a number of men from Poland's eastern provinces beyond the River Bug, as well as men who took part in the military operations in the region of Kolobrzeg, Dresden and near Praga, where they suffered heavy losses.

(7) Administrative Company

CO - Lt. Marek.

The strength of the company is approximately eighty men (including clerks, artisans and storemen).

8. Medical Department

The chief Medical Officer of the school is Capt. Podolski. His deputy is Lt. Kosowka (a Polish woman).

9. In December 1945 the total strength of the Officers' School was 461 cadet officers. There were plans to transfer the school to Opole (Oppeln).
10. The Security Office of the garrison, to which the entire school is subordinated, is located in the building of the Military Stores (a three-story building west of the pre-war premises of the Officers' Club). The Security Office is composed of several Soviet officers and a few Poles; these members do not, as a rule, wear officers' badges. Their work is limited exclusively to political investigation

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and they collaborate with the deputy commanders for political matters in units and sub-units. The Security Office representative for the Tank Supply Bn. is Lt. Birozko.

11. Garrison Court

All matters brought before the court must first be reported by officers commanding units to the Security Office of the garrison, which submits each case to the court with its own comments and bias and which is allowed to interfere with the legal procedure and the trial. If a soldier leaves his unit for twenty-four hours without permission, his offense is treated as desertion and the penalty is three months' imprisonment.

12. Garrison Command

The town major is Lt. Graybek who is stationed in the building of the Armored School.

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